

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00505 270932Z

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0505

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICE INCREASES

REF: STATE 044078

1. THE PRICE OF COFFEE HAS NOT CHANGED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE THE BRAZILIAN FROST, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

OUR SOURCES SAY THE AVAILABILITY OF COFFEE HAS ALSO REMAINED GOOD FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, IN ALL THE VARIOUS GRADES.

2. ONE HUNDRED GRAMS OF THE MOST POPULAR BRAND OF GROUND COFFEE COST ONEDOLLAR AND 40 CENTS. A ONE HUNDRED GRAM JAR OF GOOD QUALITY SOLUBLE COFFEE COSTS THREE DOLLARS FORTY EIGHT CENTS, AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE. ONE HUNDRED GRAMS ARE APPROXIMATELY THREE AND ONE HALF OUNCES. THUS, THE PRICE OF A POUND OF GROUND COFFEE IS ABOUT FOUR DOLLARS. BUT IT MUST BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE OF CZECHOSLOVAK BLUE COLLAR WORKER IS ONLY TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

PERRY

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